

Resolution for Strengthening North Carolina's Motorcycle Permit Law

WHEREAS, in 2005, there were 3,313 reported motorcycle collisions on North Carolina's highways that resulted in 132 persons killed and 3,011 persons injured;

WHEREAS, in 2005 motorcycles represented three tenths of one percent (0.3%) of vehicle miles traveled in North Carolina, but represented 8.9% of the total crash fatalities;

WHEREAS, studies indicate that per mile traveled a motorcyclist is approximately 32 times more likely to die in a crash than someone traveling in a passenger car;

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2004-2005 North Carolina DMV issued 7,218 new motorcycle license endorsements which require either taking a riding skills test or successful completion of the motorcycle safety education course, both of which the demonstration of some riding skills;

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2004-2005 North Carolina DMV issued 22,622 new motorcycle license permits which require only a written test, eye test and sign test, but no demonstration of riding skills testing;

WHEREAS, North Carolina motorcyclists involved in crashes, have continued to drive up the cost of the crash tax (crash cost per person) to over \$1,100 per person in North Carolina;

WHEREAS, studies show that over half of single vehicle (motorcycle) crash fatalities are a result of the rider running off the road in a curve and that collisions with fixed objects was a major contributing factor in motorcycle fatalities. Over half of all motorcycle crashes showed poor braking and swerving skills. All of these indicate a lack of proper riding skills.

WHEREAS, studies show that persons taught in courses similar to North Carolina's Motorcycle Safety Education Program (NCMSEP) are 85% less likely to be involved in a motorcycle crash;

WHEREAS, strengthening current North Carolina motorcycle licensing laws is consistent with the mission of the Executive Committee for Highway Safety; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee for Highway Safety unanimously and strongly supports revising North Carolina General Statute §20-7. (a2) Motorcycle Learner's Permit

- 1) From 18 months to 12 months
- 2) Non-renewable after the 12 months. At the end of the 12 month period applicant must either take a DMV riding skills test or provide proof of successful completion of the NCMSEP Basic Rider Course (BRC) or Experienced Rider Course (ERC).
- 3) Applicants less than 18 years old or those with valid drivers license less than two years regardless of age be required to successfully complete the NCMSEP Basic Rider Course.

Submitted By:

Executive Committee for Highway Safety

Susan Coward, Chair

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